GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Teesta River Linking Project
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of inter-linking of river projects with regard to Teesta river;
(b) the impact of inter-linking project on water availability in downstream areas;
(c) whether any discussions have been held with Bangladesh with regard to water sharing of rivers including Teesta; and
(d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)
(a) & (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has prepared the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development through Inter Basin Water Transfer. As envisaged in the NPP, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link under the Himalayan Component of NPP for diversion of surplus waters of Manas and Sankosh rivers with supplementation from the intermediate major streams, namely, Aie, Raidak, Torsa and Jaldhaka. The objective of this MSTG link is to augment the flows of Ganga at Farakka and further transfer to water short areas of Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins and providing irrigation facilities to the enroute command areas, including the Teesta basin for meeting the requirements of North Bengal. Though, the link is proposed to cross Teesta river, no transfer of Teesta river water is involved. Pre-Feasibility Report of this link has been prepared.
(c) & (d) The issue of sharing of Teesta water has been discussed between India and Bangladesh including at Joint River Commissioners (JRCs) and Secretary level meetings, beside other bilateral forums. During Secretary level meeting between India and Bangladesh held in January, 2011 the "Framework of the Interim Agreement" for sharing of waters of Teesta river was agreed between two countries. Thereafter, during Technical Level meeting in February, 2012 at Kolkata, discharge data (from 1998 to 2010) of Gajaldoba barrage of India and Dalia barrage of Bangladesh have been exchanged by both sides for finalization of draft agreement. Subsequently, discussions have also been held at various bilateral forums time to time with Bangladesh in this regard.
Further, during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh in June, 2015, this issue also featured and was reflected in the Joint Declaration between India and Bangladesh.
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